This elitist index diminishes the usefulness of this text for many and may, in fact, reflect a weakness in clinical descriptions which is somewhat overwhelmed by the biochemical data. I have no argument with presenting biochemical elaboration, since that is what this book is all about, but perhaps the plethora of tables and diagrams scattered throughout the book could be reduced in number and their space contain some clinical elaboration. For example, trichorrhexis nodosa (not found in the index) is illustrated in the section on originosuccinase deficiency. The picture of the hair is poor; in the text there is a paragraph on ongininosuccinase and hair disorders, but it is not clear. Mention is made of the possible production of trichorrhexis nodosa by trauma to normal hair, but it is buried in a mound of conflicting data. You must be readily familiar with the field to make use of this and other segments of the book. There are almost two pages devoted to the pharmacology of allopurinol. Fine, but nowhere is the serious complication caused by this drug, toxic epidermal necrolysis, mentioned.

Whereas the flaws seem to be few and minor, examples of excellence can be found throughout this text. Almong them are the following:

Each chapter head has lying above it, a diagram or figure showing the significant biochemical or structural feature of the topic. The section on diabetes mellitus is very current, well written, and forms a superb reference source with its 450 references, most of them from the 1970's and many from 1976. Disorders of transulfuration are grouped newly and presented by two new contributors. It is an excellent chapter because it is well balanced, clear, and pertinent clinical data is arranged in a neat memorable table—even the radiographs show what the legend says they should. Dr. Pinnell does a superior job with disorders of collagen. He describes some of the animal disorders as well as those affecting humans, without seeming to be pedantic or obscure. I could give others, but let these examples speak for the book. No academic dermatologist can really afford to be without a copy, and it would, I am sure, be of interest to anyone with something more than a monocular approach to our specialty.

Lawrence Solomon M.D.

The Physiology and Pathology of the Skin, Vol 5: The Sweat Glands, Skin Permeation, Lymphatics, Nails, A. Jarrett, M.D., Academic Press, London, 1978. (*324 pp, $46.50*).

a. Which animals have the most efficient "panting" mechanism of heat loss?

b. How does the presence of an active sodium pump in the canalicular walls of the secretory coils explain the tonicity of sweat?

c. What is hidromeiosis?

d. Is it true, as some television commercials tell us, that men sweat more than women?

e. What is usually the most important rate limiting factor in percutaneous absorption?

f. Are topically applied drugs absorbed through the skin of a person who has just died?

g. Are lymphatic vessels present in normal dermal papillae?

h. What is "cellulite"?

i. What are the differences between nails, claws, and hooves?

If you, like I, found the answers to these questions to be not only interesting but directly relevant to my practice, you will benefit from reading most of this, the 5th volume in the series, edited by Dr. Jarrett. I found this volume to be not as excellent as the 4th volume on the hair, but it contains enough of interest in it to merit its presence on the shelf of the dermatologist, gown-type or town-type—even suburbanoids.

Part One of this volume describes the structure and function of sweat glands. Although most of the illustrations are clear and their message unambiguous, some of the electron micrographs (e.g., Fig 10, 23, chap. 46) are murky. The chapter on heat exchange between animals and their environment is most interesting and describes some data from the recent literature of environmental comparative physiology. Some of the ingenious techniques developed to study sweat gland function are illustrated (see Fig. 1, page 1614). Because of the growing importance of environmental toxicology and the resultant public awareness and concern about the role played by permeation through the skin in the immediate and long-term ill effects of certain agents, I looked forward to reading the second part of this volume. Here, unfortunately, I was led to several disappointments. Firstly, the subject is touched upon, but the majority of references are not recent enough. Secondly, there is a lengthy and dull chapter dealing with the mathematics of skin permeation. Such a chapter would perhaps have been kept freer of formulae by placing them in an appendix similar to what was done in chapter 56. After all, what is important here are the concepts which describe the relationships between the variables affecting permeability rather than the data demonstrating these relationships for a host of substances. Many of the tables, then, could also have been relegated to an appendix.

The section on lymphatics contains an interesting revue of the subject and includes some controversial material, such as the acceptance of cellulite (lipoedema) as "a common problem." On the other hand, Dr. Ryan, the author of this section, does draw appropriate attention to the possible role of lymphatic stasis of the face in acne rosacea. The book closes with excellent chapters on the physiology, structure, comparative anatomy, and pathology of the nail.

For those of you whose curiosity has been stimulated by the questions which initiated this revue, you may satisfy it in 2 ways: look for the answers at the end of this section, or, better yet, find them in your own copy of the book.

Lawrence M. Solomon, M.D.

Answers to questions:

a. Birds

b. Causes hypertonic solution in the canalicular fluid. Water follows the osmotic gradient to restore osmotic equilibrium.

c. A decline in the rate of sweating during exposure to heat.

d. Yes, men start to sweat at a lower temperature and secrete more than women at the same temperature.

e. Diffusion through the stratum corneum.

f. No. At zero blood flow in the dermis absorption ceases beyond the stratum corneum.

g. No.

h. Dr. Ryan offers opinions on this and other controversial subjects.

i. Biochemical, macro- and micro-structural and even neural differences exist.

Books Received

The following books have been received and may be reviewed in subsequent issues of the *Journal of Investigative Dermatology*:

Dermabrasion and Chemical Peeling, James W. Burke, M.D., Charles C Thomas, Springfield, 1978.

Physical Modalities in Dermatologic Therapy, Herbert Goldschmidt, M.D., Springer-Verlag, New York, 1978.